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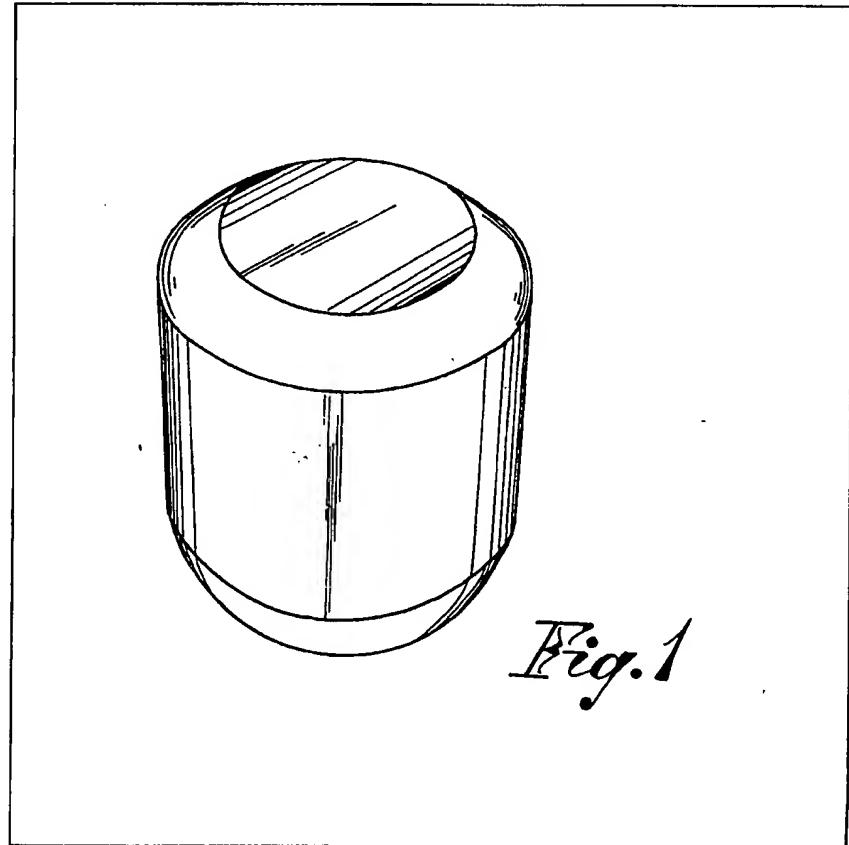
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**(54) Abrasive rolling member**

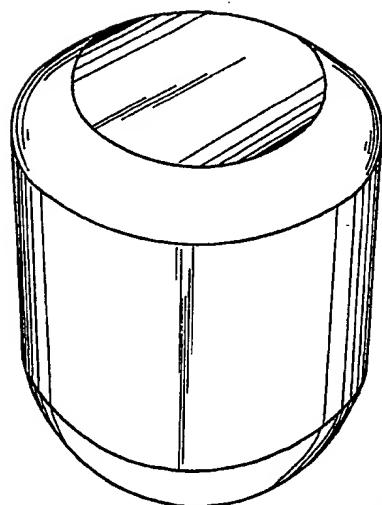
(57) An abrasive rolling member, which is insertable into the rotating drum of washing or other types of machine to produce an artificial ageing of denim material such as jeans, comprises a body member made of artificial pumice having vitrified inclusions formed therein and has either a cylindrical shape with ends which are rounded or radiused or form segments of a sphere or has a spherical shape.



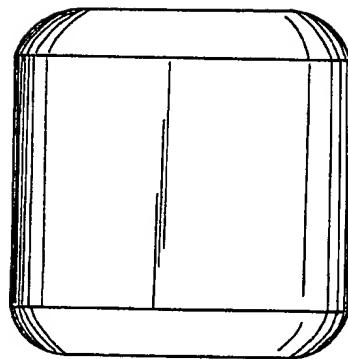
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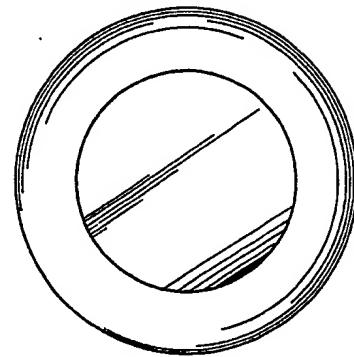
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*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*

## SPECIFICATION

**Abrasive rolling member**

5 The present invention relates to an abrasive rolling member for the artificial ageing of denim clothing such as jeans.

Denim clothing, particularly, jeans, sometimes needs to be artificially aged during the manufacturing process in order to provide it with the appearance and characteristics dictated by prevailing fashion and market requirements. One known method of artificially ageing such clothing is a form of chemical treatment utilising substances which 15 may be toxic or skin irritants.

The present invention therefore seeks to provide a mechanical device which can bring about the effective and desired artificial ageing of denim clothing by means of an abrasive rolling action, and thus 20 obviates the need for using any chemical substances.

The present invention also seeks to provide an abrasive member which is simple and convenient to use in rotating drum machines and which will not 25 damage the textile material being treated.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided an abrasive rolling member for the artificial ageing of denim material comprising a body portion of artificial pumice having vitrified inclusions formed 30 therein, the body portion having a cylindrical shape, the ends of the body portion being rounded or being at least part-spherical.

Also in accordance with the present invention, there is provided an abrasive rolling member for the 35 artificial ageing of denim material comprising a body portion of artificial pumice having vitrified inclusions formed therein, the body portion having a regular or irregular spherical shape.

The invention will be further described, by way of 40 example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

*Figure 1* shows a perspective view of an abrasive member in accordance with the present invention,

*Figure 2* shows a side view of the member shown 45 in *Figure 1*, and

*Figure 3* shows a spherical abrasive member.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, the abrasive member in question comprises a cylindrical body portion having rounded or radius ends 50 which are at least part-spherical. This latter feature can best be seen in *Figure 2*. The ends do not have sharp edge regions.

In an alternative embodiment, the body portion of the member may, as shown in *Figure 3*, be in the 55 shape of a regular or irregular sphere.

In both embodiments, the member is made of artificial pumice having abrasive material inclusions therein. The member is used by being located in a rotating drum with the material to be treated.

60 The member rolls over and between the material and has an abrasive action thereon. This artificially ages the material so that it has the desired appearance and characteristics.

## CLAIMS

1. An abrasive rolling member for the artificial ageing of denim material comprising a body portion of artificial pumice having vitrified inclusions formed therein, the body portion having a cylindrical shape, the ends of the body portion being rounded or being at least part spherical.

70 2. An abrasive rolling member for the artificial ageing of denim material comprising a body portion of artificial pumice having vitrified inclusions formed therein, the body portion having a regular or irregular spherical shape.

75 3. An abrasive rolling member constructed and arranged to operate substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 or Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

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